

Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 3953 ACTION SECSTATE
DATED APRIL 27., 1978

QUOTE: L I M I T E D OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 3953

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN VE

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT--LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ
TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. BELOW FIND AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA,
ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER. THE ROIGINAL LETTER IS
BEING HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON MAY 1 BY DR LUIGI
EINAUDI OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE (ARA/PPC).

2. BEGIN TEXT

MOST EXCELLENT

JIMMY CARTER

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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WASHINGTON

ESTEEMED MR PRESIDENT:

THE COMPLEX OF THEMES WHICH WE EXAMINED DURING
YOUR MOST PLESANT VISIT TO OUR COUNTRY, IN THE TIME
AVAILABLE FOR THE CONVERSATIONS, DID NOT PERMIT US TO

TREAT OTHER THEMES OF MUTUAL INTEREST, SUCH AS COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN, WHICH WE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED DURING MY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND AGREED ON A TENTATIVE PROGRAM.

SINCE WE AGREED TO MAINTAIN REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE ON SUBJECTS OF CONCERN TO OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, I SEE AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE THEME AT THIS TIME FOR THIS PERIODIC INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN YOU AND ME THAT WHICH DEALS WITH THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA WHICH WE HAVE DECIDED TO PROMOTE WITH THE ACTIVE COLLABORATION OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND OF REGIONAL AND WORLD FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

I DO NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO REPEAT THE MOTIVES WHICH LED ME TO PROPOSE TO YOU THAT WE UNDERTAKE THE JOINT INITIATIVE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN OCCUPYING THE ATTENTION OF OUR ADMINISTRATIONS AND WHICH HAS BEEN CHanneled THROUGH THE SO-CALLED "CARIBBEAN GROUP" COORDINATED BY THE WORLD BANK IN COOPERATION WITH THE MONETARY FUND, THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. I ONLY WISH TO REITERATE AT THIS TIME MY CONVICTION THAT IT IS INDISPENSABLE TO ACT QUICKLY BUT AT THE SAME TIME WITH ALL THE CARE THAT THE SITUATION MERITS. THE SITUATION COULD NOT BE MORE DELICATE, I NEED ONLY MENTION WHAT IS NOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAPPENDING TO SOME OF THE COUNTRIES OF THAT AREA, BE IT POLITICALLY OR ECONOMICALLY, SUCH AS ANTIGUA, BELIZE, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUYANA, HAITI, THE JAMAICA. THE SITUATION IS NO LESS DRAMATIC FOR THOSE MAY SMALL ISLANDS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY REACHED OR ARE ON THE WAY TO REACHING, THE STATUS OF INDEPENDENT NATIONS WHEN THEIR TERRITORIES AND POPULATIONS DO NOT OFFER ANY CERTAINTY OF SELF SUPPORTING THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT AND SAFEGUARDING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY. I AM ALLUDING, AMONG OTHERS, TO DOMINICA, GRENADA, MONTSERRAT, ST LUCIA AND ST VINCENT.

NOTWITHSTANDING THAT MY COUNTRY GRANTS, WITHOUT AN RESERVATIONS, THE RESPECT MERITED BY AN SOVEREIGN STATE, INDEPENDENT OF THE HISTORIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITS CREATION AND ITS ECONOMIC AND OTHER REALITIES, IT IS A FAITHFUL ADHERENT TO NON-INTERVENTION AND NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EVERY COUNTRY, AND WE WELL KNOW THE SENSITIVITIES OF NEW COUNTRIES OF THIS AREA CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT. FOR THESE REASONS IT SEEMS IMPORTANT TO ME TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY OPINION CONCERNING THE GUIDELINES ON WHICH OUR REPRESENTATIVES, JOINTLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS AND THOSE WHO OUGHT TO HAVE

THE GREATEST INTEREST IN THIS PROGRAM, THAT IS, THE BENEFICIARIES THEMSELVES, SHOULD AGREE UPON, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO DO THIS IN ORDER NOT TO DISTORT THE ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVE OF THE INITIATIVE EITHER THROUGH THE VERY RESPECTABLE CRITERIA THAT OTHER COUNTRIES DESIROUS OF COOPERATING COULD PROVIDE, OR BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE MODIFIED BY THE TRADITIONAL PRACTICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH DESIGN PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR OWN FOCUS AND TRADITION. FREQUENTLY, POSITIVE INITIATIVES BEGIN TO ACQUIRE PATERNALISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OR, WHAT CAN BE EVEN MORE PREJUDICIAL, TURN INTO LITTLE DREAMS IN A GAME OF POLITICAL CONDITIONS WHICH ENDS UP CAUSING GREATER PROBLEMS THAN THOSE WHICH IT INTENDED TO SOLVE.

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OUR BASIC CRITERION FOR THE ELABORATION OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO TRY TO STABILIZE, THROUGH APPROPRIATE INJECTIONS OF SOFT FINANCIAL RESOURCES, PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL INTEREST IN THE AREA WHICH, ON THE ONE HAND, COUNTERACT AND REDUCE THE ACTUAL LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND, ON THE OTHER, SERVE AS A POSITIVE FACTOR IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

I CONSIDER IT IMPERATIVE THAT IT BE THE COUNTRIES INTERESTED, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, THROUGH THEIR OWN MECHANISMS OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION, SUCH AS CARICOM, EAST CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET, CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, OR WHATEVER THEY MIGHT AGREE TO ESTABLISH, ASSISTED TECHNICALLY BY EXPERTS FURNISHED BY THE OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM, WHICH ESTABLISH THE FORM AND ORIENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS TO BE ESTABLISHED. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THIS NOT BECOME JUST ANOTHER PROGRAM IMPOSED BY A SMALL GROUP OF COUNTRIES DISPOSED TO COOPERATE WITHOUT BEING TOO CONCERNED ABOUT OBTAINING THE VIEWS OF THOSE TO BE BENEFITED. PERHAPS THE ONLY CONDITION THAT I MIGHT DARE TO SUGGEST IS THAT THE BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES DEFINE THEIR OWN ASPIRATIONS IN THIS PROGRAM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ACTIONS DIRECTED TOWARD THE INTEGRATION OF THEIR ECONOMIES AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, TOWARD A GREATER LINKAGE WITH OTHER REGIONAL INTEGRATION MOVEMENTS.

NEXT MAY (SIC) THE "CARIBBEAN GROUP" WILL MEET AGAIN IN WASHINGTON TO DEFINE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND, ITS MAGNITUDE AND MODALITIES. OUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL

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HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO STATE CLEARLY THE CONCEPTS EXPRESSED
IN THIS LETTER AND WE HOPE THAT THEY COINCIDE IN GOOD
MEASURE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, BEARING
IN MIND THE CONSIDERATIONS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

IN PARTICULAR, WE WISH THAT DIVISIVE CRITERIA NOT
BE ADOPTED FOR CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES, BEARING IN MIND ONLY
THE CONCEPT OF "PER CAPITA INCOME" OR THE RIGID CONDITIONS
FOR ACCESS TO RESOURCES BASED ON THE ORTHODOX CONCEPTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND WHICH REQUIRE
ADJUSTMENTS TO ECONOMIC POLICY WHICH DO NOT CORRESPOND
TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES.

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE "CREDIT ASSISTANCE FUND"
WILL BE ONLY TRANSITORY, WITH AN EXISTENCE OF NOT
LESS THAN FIVE YEARS, AND THAT THE TERMS OF FINANCING
COULD BE EXTENDED BY STAGES UP TO 20 YEARS WITH CONCESSIONAL
OR CONVENTIONAL CONDITIONS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS,
WE WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE AS WE GO ALONG WHAT THE
RESULTS ARE IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE THE NECESSARY
ADJUSTMENTS AND TO DELINEATE THE FINAL COURSES OF ACTION.

CORDIALLY,

CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA.

END QUOTE.
VAKY UNQUOTE VANCE

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